

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 OPIC-03 STR-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01
AID-05 AF-10 /110 W
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R 200830Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 750
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USINT BAGHDAD POUCH
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, XF
SUBJECT: BOYCOTT DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 097368, (B) KUWAIT 2263, (C) STATE 090993.

1. SUMMARY: SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL THINKS ARAB
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LEAGUE MEETING TO DISCUSS BOYCOTT UNLIKELY IN NEAR FUTURE.
HIS COMMENTS INDICATE KUWAITI INTER-MINISTERIAL STUDY OF
POSSIBLE CHANGES IN KUWAITI BOYCOTT PRACTICES TO AVOID
CONFLICT WITH U.S. LAW AND REGULATIONS IS STILL AT EARLY STAGE.
END SUMMARY.

2. REF A'S ANSWERS TO OUR MANY BOYCOTT QUESTIONS GREATLY

APPRECIATED.

3. EMBOFFS APRIL 19 CALLED ON TARIQ RAZUQI, HEAD OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S LEGAL DEPARTMENT AND CHAIRMAN OF WORKING-LEVEL INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE WHICH HAS MET TWICE TO DISCUSS EFFECTS OF US BOYCOTT LEGISLATION ON KUWAIT AND POSSIBLE KUWAITI REACTIONS TO THIS LEGISLATION. CONVERSATION COVERED FOLLOWING.

4. POSSIBLE ARAB LEAGUE BOYCOTT MEETING. CONFIRMING EARLIER COMMENTS OF ACTING BOYCOTT OFFICE DIRECTOR (REF B) RAZUQI SAID HE KNEW OF NO PLANNED ARAB LEAGUE MEETING TO DISCUSS BOYCOTT MATTERS AND DOUBTED ONE WOULD TAKE PLACE GIVEN CURRENT ARAB DISARRAY. HE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME CONTACT BETWEEN VARIOUS GULF COUNTRIES AND SAUDI ARABIA CONCERNING THE BOYCOTT, BUT NO PLANS FOR ANY FORMAL GULF-WIDE COORDINATION OR MEETING. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THERE WAS AN ARAB LEAGUE LEGAL COMMITTEE WHOSE DISCUSSIONS INCLUDED BOYCOTT MATTERS.

5. REMOVAL OF AMERICAN FIRMS FROM ARAB BLACKLIST. EMB-OFFS MADE PRESENTATION REGARDING REMOVAL OF COCA COLA, FORD, ETC. ALONG LINES REF C. RAZUQI SAID HE KNEW OF COCA COLA AND FORD ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT BUT PROFESSED IGNORANCE OF ANY ARAB-WIDE MOVE TO GET THESE COMPANIES OFF THE BLACKLIST, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE FACT PRESENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARAB DIVISIONS MAKE ARAB BOYCOTT MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE UNLIKELY.

6. QUESTIONNAIRE PROBLEM. EMBOFFS RAISED PROBLEMS POSED BY BOYCOTT OFFICE QUESTIONNAIRES, ESPECIALLY WHEN THESE ARE GENERATED BY ALLEGATIONS FROM COMPETITORS OF US FIRMS. THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT BOYCOTT OFFICE MAY BE ROUTINELY HANDING OUT THE QUESTIONNAIRES WHENEVER AMERICAN FIRMS OR THEIR AGENTS ASK FOR CERTIFICATES THAT FIRMS ARE NOT BOYCOTTED. EMBOFFS EMPHASIZED FACT THAT RECEIPT OF QUESTIONNAIRE PLACES AMERICAN FIRMS IN DANGER OF WARNING NOTICE AND PERHAPS BOYCOTT, SINCE FIRMS CANNOT ANSWER QUESTIONNAIRES. RAZUQI APPEARED TO BE COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND PROMISED TO LOOK INTO IT.

7. TENDER LANGUAGE. EMBOFFS PROVIDED RAZUQI WITH COPY OF CENTRAL TENDERS COMMITTEE BOYCOTT LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS, WHICH DISCOURAGE US FIRMS FROM BIDDING ON MANY PROJECTS. THEY URGED ELIMINATION OF MUCH OF THIS LANGUAGE, ESPECIALLY REQUIREMENT THAT US FIRMS PROMISE TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATE SAYING THEY ARE NOT BOYCOTTED. RAZUQI WAS SYMPATHETIC TO THE ARGUMENT SUCH REQUIREMENTS WERE PRO-

KEDURAL AND UNWARRANTED AND PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER.

8. COMMENT: FOR A PERSON WHO IS SUPPOSEDLY CHAIRMAN OF A COMMITTEE LOOKING INTO THE WHOLE BOYCOTT PROBLEM IN KUWAIT, RAZUQI STRUCK US AS NOT VERY WELL INFORMED ON HIS OWN GOVERNMENT'S REQUIREMENTS, MUCH LESS THOSE OF US LAW. RAZUQI IS CURRENTLY IN THE MIDST OF REGIONAL GULF CONFERENCE IN KUWAIT DRAWING UP ANTI-POLLUTION CONVENTIONS; THIS MAY EXPLAIN HIS LACK OF FOCUS ON THE BOYCOTT SUBJECT. ALSO, ALL OUR PAST EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS HAD LITTLE TO DO WITH BOYCOTT MATTERS AND HAS NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY WELL INFORMED ON THEM. RAZUQI STRUCK US AS COOPERATIVE AND SYMPATHETIC TO OUR ARGUMENTS, BUT WHETHER THIS WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRACTICAL ELIMINATION OF OBJECTIONABLE KUWAITI BOYCOTT REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
MAESTRONE

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